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SUBJECT: DONOR COUNTRIES SET UP COMMITTEE ON MILITARY,
POLICE REFORM

Classified By: Poloff Edward Bestic for Reasons 1.5 B and D

[1](#)1. (SBU) SUMMARY: Following up on earlier discussions, MONUC and member states on July 13 set up a committee on Security Sector Reform (SSR). The committee includes representatives from the GDRC plus MONUC, the World Bank, and major embassies; it will meet monthly to coordinate donor efforts and assist the GDRC with planning and implementing SSR. The committee is potentially useful mechanism for coordinating donor activities (a problem in the past) and spurring the GDRC to action. END SUMMARY.

Setting up the Committee

[1](#)2. (U) MONUC SRSRG William Swing convened on July 13 the first meeting of a Security Sector Reform (SSR) Coordination Committee, as discussed at SSR meetings in New York in February and June 2004. This committee will meet monthly to coordinate donor efforts and assist the GDRC in planning and implementing security reform. It will focus on three areas: police reform, military integration, and Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR). Initial committee members include the GDRC, U.S., UK, EU, France, Belgium, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Germany, South Africa, Angola, MONUC, and World Bank. A separate, working-level group composed of the same member countries and organizations will meet weekly, and MONUC will create a small SSR cell, which will act as the committee's secretariat.

GDRC Participation

[1](#)3. (SBU) Evariste Boshab (President Kabila's cabinet director) and Daniel Kawata (head of the national DDR commission), represented the GDRC at this first meeting. Boshab said police and military integration are the GDRC's top priorities, and hoped the committee would help combat rumors and avoid duplication of effort. In future, he explained, the defense and interior ministers would attend.

Next Steps

[1](#)4. (SBU) MONUC's Deputy SRSRG, Behrooz Sadry, asked committee members to designate their working-group representatives by July 15. He suggested that the initial agenda include explanations of each member's current activities and agreements, a discussion of how to coordinate them, and an update from Kawata on the status of national DDR planning.

COMMENT

[1](#)5. (C) The committee is a potentially useful mechanism for coordinating donor activities. Currently, the GDRC's major partners on security-sector reform issues are Belgium, France, Angola, South Africa, MONUC and the EU. The French, EU, and MONUC are all focused on police training; information-sharing and coordination is not such a problem there. The Belgians, South Africans and Angolans, however, have a track record of "doing their own thing" security-wise in the Congo, and mutual rivalry (if not suspicion) is strong.

[1](#)6. (C) Ideally, the committee would also serve as a means of putting pressure on the GDRC to plan and begin to implement real military integration. Boshab's attendance at the opening meeting was a good sign and indicates high-level participation, though it remains to be seen who will represent the GDRC at future meetings. END COMMENT.
SCOTT